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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3770
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2916
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0705
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 0166

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 000089

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

FOR EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS AND INR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#) [MY](#)
SUBJECT: MALAYSIA: FM CALLS FOR ASSK'S RELEASE

¶1. (U) Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman called on Burma to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK) ahead of national elections expected to be held in late 2010. Anifah told AFP on February 9 that "we want a free, fair, and an inclusive election. We should give everybody a chance, including Aung San Suu Kyi," adding that he thought Burma would hold elections "around October." Anifah added "We hope she will be freed. We feel that giving all a chance is democracy. Then it becomes a legitimate election." Anifah noted in his comments to AFP that ASEAN had taken a common stand towards Burma, encouraging it to proceed on its roadmap to democracy. Said Anifah: "All the ASEAN countries say 'Let's have a free and fair election'."

¶2. (SBU) Poloff spoke with Mr. Raja Saifful, MFA Principal Assistant Secretary responsible for covering Burma affairs, on February 10 regarding his Foreign Minister's statements to AFP. Saifful noted that FM Anifah chose to speak out about Burma now because Malaysia is interested in seeing Burma have free and fair elections this year, and that Aung San Suu Kyi should be one of the candidates. Saifful added that the Burmese government machinery to free ASSK will take some time, so that it was imperative to start voicing public calls to free her sooner than later.

KEITH